

Sunday
November 15, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Plain print indicates the worship leader.

Bold print indicates the people.

*Indicates please stand as able.

Gathering

Call to Worship: Psalm 24 (NRSV)

Entrance into the Temple

¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; ²for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. ³Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. ⁵They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. ⁶Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. ⁸Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. ⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. ¹⁰Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Prayer

Infinite God, not only did you create us in your likeness but in Jesus the Messiah you have rescued us from the bondage of sin and death. Receive the praise we bring as those you have set free to serve you and our neighbors.

Amen.

Scripture Lesson: 1 Kings 3:16-28 (NRSV)

Video: "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Sung by the Adventist Vocal Ensemble (London, UK)

Scripture Lesson: Luke 12:13-21 (Kingdom New Testament)

Sermon: "All the Pretty Little Horses"

*Hush-a-bye, don't you cry
Go to sleep you little baby
When you wake, you shall have
All the pretty little horses
"Rest your head," mama said
Go to sleep you little baby
"When you wake, you'll have cake"
Coach and six little horses*

*Blacks and bays
Dabbles and grays
All the pretty little horses
Way down yonder in the meadow
Lies a poor little lambie
Bees and butterflies flutter 'round his eyes
Poor little thing's crying "Mammie"
Blacks and bays
Dabbles and grays
All the pretty little horses
Hush-a-bye, don't you cry
Go to sleep you little baby
When you wake, you shall have
All the pretty little horses*
— Suzy Bogguss version from the album
"American Folk Songbook"

Response to the Word: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory

Offering Prayer

Thank you for your prayers and support of our finances.

Creator of all life, Source of all goodness, transform these tangibles into the intangibles of the Holy Spirit that equip the church to do your work and accomplish your will in the Way of Jesus.

Amen.

Pastor's Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer

O God, you have taught us how good it is to follow the promptings of your Holy Spirit and how bitter is the grief of failing to know and do what is good. Forgive our failures and renew our resolve to be obedient to your call to serve you in all the activities of our daily life.

You have created the church to be the guardian of the truth that is Jesus the Messiah and to share his truth with others. Make us wise in this vocation, ready to hear what others believe to be the truth, and humble in sharing our own thoughts.

Hear our prayers for all who are appointed to the courts. May they help preserve good order. Give them fairness and judgment and patience under provocation.

Bless those who are teaching our children and youth in public and private schools at every level. May they find wisdom in the reading of your written Word and love in the worship of you that will be reflected in their concern for the healthy growth of the immature to maturity in responsibility.

Bless all who confer in the cause of peace, that sham and posturing may give way to a genuine dialogue and agreements be reached that will bring an end to conflict and bloodshed.

Be with all who till the soil and reap the harvest. Protect miners, meatpackers, mariners, flyers, and all who work in hazardous occupations to meet our common needs.

Compassionate Christ, heal those who are sick in body or mind, people with COVID-19. We lift up especially the people known and dear to us who need you for healing and help in their particular circumstance. (Silence)

Be with all who are medical workers and first responders on the frontline of COVID-19. Protect doctors, nurses, paramedics, fire and police personnel.

Bless all veterans who have served our country with honor and dignity.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Holy Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

Our Father who art in heaven...

Parting Words: "Metanoia vs. Paranoia"

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I., is the president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May he lift up his countenance to you and give you peace. May almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us go forth in the love and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

Prayer for Family and Friends

Praise

Myrna Forsythe is doing well following surgery for a new pacemaker.

Nick Marko (Therisa Gruber's future son-in-law) was in a car accident but is recovering well.

Updates and New Requests This Week

Cynda Buckallew will have an MRI on Tuesday.

Michael Kohler (Norm and Melva's son) is hospitalized with COVID-19.

Previous Requests

Pray for Dan Cook and family, as his wife, Lindsey, died last week. Dan is a friend of Kris Miller and the son of Jean Cook, our custodian.

Please pray for Maxine Melvin (Tim's mother), who is 92 yrs. old and worries so about her family. She has lost so many.

Randy Myers (Georgia Rolfe's brother) is 95 years old and has issues with his heart.

Pray for Leanne Spiegelberg (Kris Miller's aunt), and all the family, as Kris's uncle, Dwight, died last week.

VUMC's
Mission Statement



The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Donations for Sunshine Bags



Caring Ministries will be making Sunshine Bags for our senior members who are not getting out. We encourage you to donate, if you like, and we would like any items dropped off at church by the welcome center throughout November.

Items can be handmade or purchased, perhaps at the dollar stores. Suggestions include (but are not limited to) bookmark, fish crackers, candy, pads of paper, Bible verse.

In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Flossie Lang
Nona Mattheis

Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv Starbuck
Mina Willett
Betty Witcher

Donate to VUMW to help our community

The United Methodist Women's 2020 budget of over \$11,000 would have benefitted our local community, i.e. South Co. Community Services, United Methodist Community House, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Wesley Foundation, Generous Hands, and many other organizations. Because of the pandemic, our two rummage sales and many bake sales were cancelled, so budgeted funds were not raised. If you are able and so desire, any donations would be appreciated. Checks can be sent to UMW Treasurer Penny Sult, 14268 South 24th St., Vicksburg, MI 49097. Thank you.

Welcome!

The service in the Family Life Center is transmitted to the church parking lot via FM signal for those who wish to remain in their vehicle.

- Wear a mask and remain 6 ft. from others.
- Use the ramp into the Family Life Center.
- Your temperature will be checked.
- Restrooms are available.



Repair of Bell Tower, Siding on South Side, West Side, and Below Round Room Facing West

Talking about needing repair!! The old Bell Tower had been scraped and painted so many times, it just would not hold the paint anymore. In fact, the trustees pulled off rather large sheets of peeling paint and pinned it to their jackets on Sundays, just to show the congregation how bad it really was (as if they had not already noticed it)! Plus, the wood siding on the west front and south side of the building was a candidate for cement board siding to ward off any more unsuccessful scrapings and paintings. The siding under the half round room on the west side had to be replaced with cedar and painted, as cement board would not curve.

The Trustees solicited bids and chose Fredericks Construction, which was local and competitive, to do the job. But where and how could they raise the money, which was \$127,591 per the bid? The Wills and Trust said they could come up with \$25,000 if the congregation could raise a matching amount. Great, but that would still be \$75,000 short!! So, now what? How about a grant from the Vicksburg Community Foundation (VCF) started by Simpson Lee Paper Co.'s Max Bardeen in the 1940's for the community and now has millions of dollars today. After all, VUMC is in the community, right? First try, led by Trustee Chairperson Aileen Greanya, the VCF replied, "Sorry, but we do not grant funds to churches, which are religious entities that mainly only benefit special groups."

Well, our history shows VUMC is not just a church for its own members but services the entire Vicksburg community for various reasons. Aileen tried a second time, listing all the non-profits that use our buildings on a regular basis, approximately 20. She even took it a step further and asked these non-profits to write a letter to VCF stating specifically how this old white church in downtown Vicksburg was a help to them. This time, the VCF took a second look and said they could grant us \$75,000. Just what we needed to go ahead. God is good at math! And things got even better! The congregation donated \$40,000, bringing our total to \$140,000. God knew there

were some other items that would need repair, so He wanted to make sure we had enough when the time came.

Construction started in September 2019 and was completed in November 2019. And good news got even better: the final construction cost was \$109,575! We asked Wills & Trusts if they wanted a refund...and they said keep it. By then, we knew God was right all along, and we were going to need extra funds. The three large colored glass windows in the Bell Tower were not only unpaintable, **but not even safe to leave in the tower! WOW.**

Our custodian, Ryan Miller, investigated and found a stained glass company, Wiskerchin Studios, pros in church stained glass, located in Ohio. Their bid was for all three in stained glass, plus install, and included the special plexiglass at no charge for \$19,780. A bargain, but there was a caveat: we had to allow artistic freedom and to use their leftover stained glass in the design. We said, "Okay, but please, no ultra-modern design for this 150-year-old building. J.R. Fulton, a trustee, phoned every reference on Wiskerchin's list and received all glowing recommendations. It was a go ahead. They were installed in hot July 2020 and are very beautiful! Next step is to get a bright light installed inside the Bell Tower to illuminate their beauty.

Along with good news sometimes comes a bit of bad. The Family Life Center's cement board had not been properly constructed in 2005. The calking between ends of boards began to fall out so needed re-calking to avoid leaks. Bid: \$5,860. If you do the math, we still have \$4,785 left over, more than enough to get some lights up there in the Bell Tower to sparkle all the way to heaven, plus repair the roof over the doors on the south side of the building. God should be teaching math, I tell you! Look at all He accomplished for us with this \$140,000!

Drive past your church. It looks so well cared for. Lawn mowed, paint and windows in good shape. Pristine and just waiting for you.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton

South County Christmas Program (Angel Tree)

Because of COVID-19, this year's SCCS Christmas Program will be different. Many more families are in need. Details are still in the works, but most of the families are asking for gift cards.

These are the solutions being discussed: we as a church family can donate to SCCS and let them buy gift cards (they get a substantial discount), or we could buy gift cards through ScripCents and donate them. For the families asking for gifts, we must determine if anyone wants to go out and shop. Gifts would be taken to SCCS for distribution.

All three possibilities could be available. Check the Tuesday Report or here in the bulletin in the next few weeks for updates.



This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

11/16 Rick Blatt	11/20 Dan Minger
11/17 Joe Hayes Sr.	Mary Stenstrom

Midweek prayer meeting

To join the online prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:45, please click this link: meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs.

Otherwise, to join by telephone, dial:
+1 415-604-0783; enter PIN: 815 342 983#.

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 tomorrow.
- Items for the December/January newsletter are due to Polly reception@vicksburgumc.org tomorrow (early deadline due to Thanksgiving).

Office hours

Polly will be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 1:00 and will continue to work from home Mondays and Thursdays. The church is still closed, so call ahead during office hours.

please see more on the other side



Throughout the year, we encourage giving to United Methodist Church special offerings. **United Methodist Student Day Sunday is November 29.** This offering is collected the last Sunday in November. It provides scholarship funds for United Methodist College, university and graduate students. Your gifts last year provided a scholarship for Laura Harness of Macon, Georgia.

If you would like to give, please make your check payable to VUMC and write UM Student Day on the memo line and mail it to the church or bring it to church Sunday morning with your regular giving. Or give online at UMCgiving.org/giveUMSD.

Donate through consignment

United Methodist Women has an account at Home Again Consignment Store at 815 W. Prairie, Vicksburg. Anyone can drop off good new or used items at the store, and the proceeds will be donated to UMW. You must make an appointment at 649-1944, Facebook page and <https://www.homeagainvicksburg.com/>. Facebook and website have the rules for consigning. Thank you for any donations.

Prayer requests are available by phone

You can hear the weekly prayer requests by calling the church (649-2343). When the answering machine answers, dial 370.

please see more on the other side